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A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

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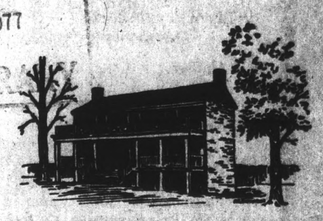

Father Darkleaf

by
Calvin Robinson

Well sir, well sir, 'tis 1977 and thus far nuthin sensational has happened on Martha Street. Just seated here waiting for the weather man to make up his mind whether we get snow, sleet or if he is just teasing us. I have no complaints. Oddly enough, after I loaded my bird feeder with small bird seed, none have appeared. Sorta like Christmas morning when it is hard to get everyone to the breakfast table and away from their thrilling new gifts. Patience does it. They will show up.

* * *

For once, I have had enough football. Watched so many TV games I finally awarded the title to Pittsburg and turned off the switch. May change my mind, however, come Super Bowl time. Basketball is taking over and ACHS hopes to rebound after the holidays.

* * *

Nice card from Bill and Hilda (Mitchell) Bucksey, datelined San Juan, Puerto Rico. If you do not travel much anymore, next best is to have friends who do, and who remember to send you a card. The Buckseys reside in Missouri and read the Times-Virginian.

* * *

My longtime friend, Bro. Jacob Lewis came by to see us and brought along a 1959 West Virginia newspaper. Of special interest were the food ads and the prices. Yes, the food prices were less then, but in proportion to the vast expansion in variety, out-of-season produce and fabulous service, I think the modern food market is an eight wonder of the world. Ah yes, and Mr. Lewis is a veteran of almost fifty years in the printing business. Come to see me again and please have a garden this year !!

* * *

I had been hoping to receive a new 1977 seed catalog, and lo and behold since last week's column I have gotten three. Might nice reading, these winter days. Heavens to Betsy, the illustrations inspire you to try to become a super gardener. My garden space is as yet unplowed. Might be just as well, else I would plant too soon and lose out to frost and the perils of Mother Nature. In the long run, I will resort to my pitiful story of what a willing but unsuccessful gardener I am, and friends will share their harvest! Ain't that awful! But somewhere along the line there will be a knock at the door and a friend will share some of their first tomatoes, etc. Appomattox is a good place to live. A Growing Town, yes, but not forgetting the small-town qualities of live and let live.

* * *

May I quote from your catalog, Mr. Gurney, of Yankton, South Dakota? "A man seldom knows what he can do until he tries to undo what he has done.... When a man starts throwing dirt you can be sure he is losing ground...No one is ever too old to learn, but many people keep putting it off." I must say that Gurney's has the most complete seed and nursery catalog I have ever seen. But there are others, and do not forget your hometown supplier.

* * *

The answer is YES. I stayed up to watch in the New Year. It was cold outside, but warm inside. And there was an undercurrent of awareness that America is growing up. So many depend on us. Not just for money, but for know-how, for leadership. God lavished His gifts upon His creation, and it is our challenge to be good stewards. May 1977 be a year of achievement, getting the job done and doing it ourselves instead of piling up the bills on future generations. In '77 we will reach, touch, and grasp, and next time around when another New Year arrives we will be proud. I am proud of you, and thanks for reading.

James A. Smith, Appomattox County Extension Agent, was the installing officer and guest speaker Sunday evening, January 2, 1977 as the Appomattox County Rescue Squad marked another successful year of service with a dinner and the installation of officers for 1977.

New officers installed Sunday, left to right, were Paul O. Doss, First Lieutenant and member of Board of Governors; Nellie Almond, Second Lieutenant Junior; Abner Scruggs, Second Lieutenant Senior; Anderson Scruggs, President; James Womack, Sgt. of Building and Grounds; James C. Rogers, Captain; Doug Seamster, Secretary; Harry Ferguson, Jr., Vice President; Gordon Staples, Communications Officer; Mr. Smith, the installing officer; and Ray Noble, Training Officer. Officers not present for picture were James Carter, Sgt. of Motor Pool; and Toby Inge, Treasurer. W. M. Abbitt serves as Legal Advisor for the squad and Medical Advisors are Dr. A. A. Fratrick, Dr. J. A. Mathews, and Dr. C. G. O'Brien.

Rescue Squad Installs Officers

The Appomattox County Rescue Squad marked another successful year of service to the people of Appomattox County when members, their wives/husbands, and other guests met on Sunday evening, January 2, 1977 for a dinner and the installation of officers for the 1977 year.

James C. Rogers, Captain of the ACRS, introduced Mr. James A. Smith, Appomattox County Extension Agent, the guest speaker and installing officer.

Mr. Smith spoke briefly on the valuable service that members of the Appomattox County Rescue Squad render citizens of our county. The 18 members and two Junior members average responding to an estimated 50 calls each month with 90 percent of the persons requiring first aid and transportation to a hospital. All members are volunteers and have had all necessary training to become active members in this organization. They give of their time, day or night, in an effort to help their fellowman when in need and never ask for nor expect anything in return.

The confidence of the people of this county is in evidence each year when "Fund Drive" time comes around. The members have never failed to reach the goal they set for operating expenses and for updated equipment when needed. All donations to the Appomattox County Rescue Squad go into the General Fund and is used for the sole purpose of rescue squad work. The dinner enjoyed on Sunday evening was made possible with the use of funds from projects sponsored by the squad members.

Local Families Spending More For Homes

How high a price can the average Appomattox County family prudently pay for a new home these days?

Based upon its earning capacity, how big a load may it take on in the form of monthly carrying charges without getting overburdened?

The questions are pertinent at this time because they confront a large number of families, locally and elsewhere, who are in the market for new homes. Many of them have been house-hunting for a long time but have been unable to find suitable ones within their means.

However, because incomes in the area have been going up and are a higher level than ever, most local families are now in a position to pay more for their housing than they were able to in former years.

They are find, on the other hand, that the selection is small and the prices extremely high. Today, according to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the average price for a new home, bought with a conventional mortgage, has soared to $50,500 nationally, compared with $30,000 a decade ago. It is out-of-sight for a large part of the population.

As for the average family in Appomattox County, it is better able to cope with this price, however, than are families in many other communities. The $50,500 price represents approximately 4.5 times the annual net income per household locally.

In some area, no less than 10 times annual earnings would be necessary.

Keeping pace with the rising cost of new homes is the cost of used ones. The average selling price nationally, as of September, was $43,300.

As for the expenses involved in owning and operating a home, including mortgage obligations, taxes, utilities and maintenance, the National Association of Home Builders reports it averaged 29 percent of take-home pay last year, up from 23 percent in 1965.

Despite the fact that rising costs are taking bigger bites out of pay envelopes, the urge to be home owners remains strong in Appomattox County.

According to the most recent figures, some 74.3 percent of the homes in the local area are owner-occupied.

More $$$ Locally From Washington

How much Federal money will be flowing into Appomattox County during the next four years by virtue of the $25.6 billion revenue-sharing bill passed by Congress? For what purposes may this money be used?

According to data released by the Treasury Department, during the forthcoming year alone, some $135 million of this sum will be going to the State of Virginia and to its various communities.

For Appomattox County and for the localities within the county, the proportionate share of this total, assuming an even distribution within the state along population lines, figures out to approximately $296,000.

That is solely for 1977. Apportionments will be made at the same rate in 1978 and 1979 and up to September 30, 1980. It will carry through right up to the next Presidential election.

The $25.6 billion payout, it is noted, represents a new high in revenue sharing. It is $150 million more per year than at the present time.

The extent to which the states and their communities will share in these billions varies considerably. The funds have been allotted, the Treasury Department states, with regard to income and relative need.

As a result, the range is from a low of $24.43 per capita, in Florida, to a high of $42.86, in Mississippi. The national average is $31.49. In Appomattox County it is $27.14 per capita.

Among the 50 largest cities, Chicago is in the number one spot. It will receive four times more, per capita, than San Diego, which will get the least.

How is this money to be used? Up to the present time, expenditures could be for specific kinds of public programs only.

The net result was that more than a third of the funds have been going for police and fire protection. Another 16 percent has been used to improve public transportation systems.

Beginning January 1st, however, all such limitations will be off. Under the new bill, the money may go for any civic purpose desired.

The only restriction is that there be no discrimination because of race, religion, sex, age or national origin.

Crumbs For Thought

By:"ZEKE"

Someone wrote "Do more than exist - live. Do more than touch - feel. Do more than look - observe. Do more than listen - understand. Do more than talk - say something." So do we live as well as we know how?

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17

BIRDIE Z. HARVEY APPOINTED DEPUTY CLERK

Mrs. Barbara R. Williams, Clerk Circuit Court of Appomattox County, has announced the appointment of Miss Birdie Z. Harvey as Deputy lerk of the Circuit Court effective January 1, 1977.

Miss Harvey is a graduate of Appomattox High School and of Phillips Business College in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Prior to joining the clerk's office staff on April 1, 1975, Miss Harvey was employed with Appomattox Garment Company for 23 years.

School Board To Meet Monday At 3

The Appomattox County School Board will meet in regular session in the board Room on Main Street on Monday, January 10, 1977 at 3 P.M.

Items to be on the agenda are review of quotations on school bus bodies and chassis, consideration of Five-Year Special Education Plan, Consideration of Five-Year Vocational Education Plan, report on drug education committee meeting, report from a school principal, consideration of changes in school board policies relative to special education, a financial report, and the re-appointment of division superintendent.

Tech To Host Consumer Education Conf

BLACKSBURG – Virginia Tech's Extension Division will sponsor a two-day conference on consumer education and money management here Thurs day and Friday, January 13-14, featuring a variety of workshops and three national experts in the consumer field.

The conference, part of a project underwritten by a $62,000 grant to Tech's Extension Division by Virginia's Title I Agency for Higher Education, is expected to attract about 300 persons – from Extension agents and homemakers to to educators and family counselors.

Project director Glen H. Mitchell, Tech professor of consumer economics and Extension specialist in consumer education, said the keynote speaker will be Lillian H. Mohr. Mohr formerly was a special adviser to Virginia Knauer, Presidential consumer affairs assistant. An advocate of better consumer education programs and an associate professor of consumer economics at Florida State University, Mohr will speak at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, January 13, in Tech's Donaldson Brown Center for Continuing Education. All conference sessions will be held in the center.

Consumer affairs columnist-author Sidney Margolius of Port Washington, N. Y., will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, on "The Consumer –Lost Lamb in a Merchandise Maze." His columns are syndicated in newspapers and other publications across the country. Educated at Rutgers, he is author of "Health Foods Facts and Fakes," winner in 1973 of the National Press Club award as the best book on consumerism. Margolius will conduct a workshop for newspaper writers on "How to Survive in Consumer Journalism" at 10:45 a.m. Friday, January 14.

Mitchell said the conference follows a meeting of business leaders and educators here in August to plan educational materials to help Virginians be wiser consumers. The January conference will serve as a sounding board for many of the materials developed during the past four months, he said. In April and May there will be six

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Manufacturing Developments In State Reported For 1976

Announcements of new and expanding manufacturing firms in Virginia for 1976 total 113, with anticipated employment of about 10,670. Fifty-two of these announcements were for new firms with projected employment of 5,130 and 61 were expansions of existing Virginia firms which will add 5,540 employees.

Development activity for the year shows a 48% increase in anticipated employment over 1975 announcements of 7,190 and is up 32% over 1974 announced employment of 8,070. Although the number of facilities announced in 1974 and 1975 are about equal to those announced this year, the substantial increase in projected employment indicates a relatively strong recovery from the recent recession. However, announced new and expanded employment for 1976 had not reached the level of pre-recession years.

New or expanded manufacturing plants in Appomattox County include Sangil Industries, a new manufacturing plant for contract garments, with expected employment of 100; and an expansion of Thomasville Furniture Industries, Division of Armstrong Cork Company, a manufacturer of bedroom furniture.

The new industry and the expansion of Thomasville both are an asset to the growth and employment in our county.

Virginia's record of industrial diversificaiton was maintained with facilities announced in 19 of the 20 industrial classifications. The greatest anticipated employment growth is in nonelectrical machinery (2,070), followed by transportation equipment (1,550), apparel (1,770), and fabricated metal products (802). Virginia continued to attract foreign-based firms with eight new and five expanding manufacturing facilities for 1976 with a total anticipated employment of over 1,000.

During 1976, 26 firms announced investments of $2 million or more, 12 of which were for new facilities and 14 were expansions of existing plants.

Of the 112 announcements 43 will employ 100 or more. Those new plants with anticipated employment of 250 or more are: Aerofin Corp. (Amherst County) 350; Time Life Books (Alexandria) 320; Rothman Division - Emerson Electric Co. (Orange) 300; Visador Corp. (Marion) 300; Old Dominion Beef (Jarratt) 270; Norris Industries (Duffield) 250; and Galax Apparel Corp. (Galax) 250. Those adding 250 or more were: Sundstrand Corp. (Bristol) 1,000; Ford Motor Co. (Norfolk) 670; Norfolk Shipbuilding & Drydock (Norfolk) 600; Goodyear Tire and Rubber (Danville) 300) and Dan River Mills (Danville) 300.

Va. Fibre Corporation Signs Consent Order

Virginia Fibre Corporation, Riverville, has signed a consent order with the State Air Pollution Control Board which formalizes the accord reached at the December 6, 1976 meeting of the State Air Pollution Control Board.

The two-part consent order deals with particulate emmissions from a bark boiler and the second part deals with the odor question.

The consent order requires that the bark boiler particulate emmissions be brought into compliance with the State Air Pollution control Board regulations by July 4, 1977.

Virginia Fibre, by signing the consent order, also agrees to continue to employ good housekeeping and maintenance practices and to continue to review new technologies as it relates to the Virginia Fibre process in order to minimize possible odor emmission from the plant.

W. W. Ricketson, vice president and resident manager of the mill, said the company should have no trouble complying with the latest consent order. However, he said he did not "cherish the idea" of entering into another agreement.But he added, "it's just one of the democratic ways to work out a solution."

The company previously was under a consent order to reduce objectionable odors at its Riverville plant. Compliance with that order was met last June when odor reduction equipment was placed in operation.

Proposal Designates The Appomattox As Scenic River

A proposal by the Commission of Outdoor Recreation to designate a segment of the Appomattox River as a Virginia Scenic River was made during a Public Hearing held October 14, 1976 in Matoaca.

The segment proposed for designation at the Public Hearing is bounded by Chesterfield County on the North, and Dinwiddie County and the City of Petersburg on the South.

A total of 842 persons expressed their opinion at the Public Hearing or submitted statements to the Commissions of Outdoor Recreation prior to the close of the Public Record on October 30, 1976. Of these 837 expressed support, four expressed opposition and one representative of local government expressed concern over the proposal and indicated that the Planning Commission staff was not prepared to support the designation at that time.

Included in the above totals are 13 riparian landowners; nine expressed support and four opposed the designation; but in addition, 17 organizations expressed support in the form of a letter or a formal resolution.

Although the six-mile segment of the Appomattox between lake Chesdin and Petersburg is in and near densely populated urban centers, it has maintained an almost totally primitive character. Because of its accessibility and usefulness for a wide range of recreational activities, this section of the Appomattox is heavily used.

The name "Appomattox" became a part of our national history during the last year of the Civil War when, at the climax of the struggle, the armies in blue and gray fought on its banks at Bermuda Hundred, the 10-month siege of Petersburg, Five Forks and Sayler's Creek. The surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox made that name a synonym for peace in the American vocabulary.

The river and its surroundings are rich in history. The turbulent waters of the fall line set the original limits of early colonial settlement and made Petersburg an important frontier trade center and exploration base in the early 1700's. As upstream areas were settled the river became a vital commercial artery, powering mills and carrying goods to downstream markets. Many remnants of early canal works created to facilitate navigation around the fall line rapids are still present along the river.

Water quality in this section of the Appomattox is very good. Under normal conditions the river provides the fishermen and whitewater canoeing enthusiasts with opportunities throughout the year.

Despite its proximity to urban development, objectionable man-made intrusions are few. The river is bounded on both sides throughout most of its length by steep, heavily wooded hillsides which effectively screen the view inland from the river. Numerous heavily wooded islands accessible only by boat, on which recreationists can picnic or pitch a primitive camp, also add to the feeling of isolation.

Many species of native wildlife are present in the heavily wooded river corridor and sport fishing is good for a large variety of fish.

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LEGION TO HOLD PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL SHOWING

American Legion Post 104 will hold its annual sale of 1978 calendars and other advertising materials used as promotional items in business. These materials will be on display in the American Legion Building Monday and Tuesday, January 10th and 11th. Display may be seen during the afternoon from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. each day and in the evening from 7 to 9 P.M.

This is a major fund-raising project for Post 104. Purchases made at this showing will save you money, as the sales are made by the Manufacturer and/or manufacturer's representative.

We ask all businesses who purchase promotional materials to visit the display and at least share your purchases.

Crewman Of The Year

Mrs. Nellie Almond, left above, was honored on Sunday evening, January 2, 1977 when she was presented a plaque naming her "Crewman of the Year" of the Appomattox County Rescue Squad for 1976. The plaque was presented by James C. Rogers, right above, Captain of the ACRS.

As a member of the Appomattox County Rescue Squad, Mrs. Almond serves as Second Lieutenant Junior and is one of the four "crew leaders" in the squad. Whenever asked to serve in any capacity or to answer any call at any time, Mrs. Almond is ready and willing to do everything she can to help her fellowman. She is, and has been for a number of years, an outstanding member of the Appomattox County Rescue Squad.